

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 3-7, 10-17 and 21-25 are pending in this application.

Claims 3-4 and 10-12 were not rejected over prior art (e.g., not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103). By this Amendment, claims 3 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form including limitations of their respective base claims, although Applicant requests that the Examiner make an independent determination of this issue. Claim 4 depends from claim 3, and claims 11-12 depend from claim 10. Claims 3-4 and 10-12 are thus allowable.

Claims 5-7 and 23 now depend from claim 3, and claims 13-16 and 24 depend from claim 10. Claims 5-7, 13-16, 23 and 24 are thus allowable. Applicant thus requests that the rejections of claims 5-7, 13-16, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Similar to limitations required by independent claims 3 and 10, independent claim 17 (and its dependents) now requires, *inter alia*, “wherein each individual aggregate Bloom filter data file has a predetermined expiry time, the servers have means for forwarding only the Bloom filter data files that have not exceeded their predetermined expiry times.” None of the cited art teaches or suggests this limitation – as evident for example by the non-rejection of claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103. Applicant thus requests that the rejections of claims 17 and its dependents under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Although the Office Action suggests that Bloom filters and compressed aggregate messages are known, Applicant submits that it would not be practical to simply generate a single Bloom filter for all the event reports, as the reports cannot subsequently be individually removed, and the content of the message would just grow continuously. The invention of claim 17 solves this problem by creating a separate Bloom filter for each expiry time, thus only combining

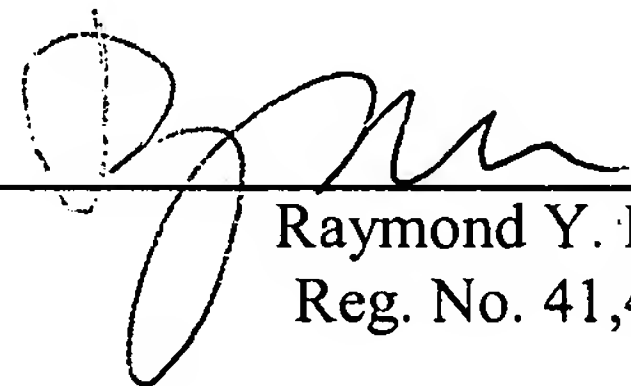
reports with the same expiry time into any one Bloom filter, which can be deleted on expiry of (all) its contents. This can be done without losing any reports with later times as they are carried in separate messages (i.e., it does not prevent Bloom vectors being combined, provided that they have the same expiry time). This use of a separate Bloom filter for each aggregate data file, depending on the expiry times of the event reports it carries is not taught or suggested by any of the cited combinations of prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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